



Send money online
Fast, Trusted and Easy as 1-2-3

[Send now »](#)
Headlines | 29 June 2015 16:05 CET

[6 Comments](#)

The Hour For Prison Reforms Is Now

By ASP James Annan

[Previous](#) | [Next](#)


Prison Inmates Sleeping In Unacceptable Positions

Check Arrest Records

Search Free. Arrests Records, Police, Criminal Reports & More.



The state of most prison facilities in the country leaves much to be desired due to a number of convoluted challenges confronting the Prisons Service.

Consequently, there is the need for the Service to reach out to corporate Ghana, faith-based organisations, private institutions, and individuals to contribute towards the on-going prison reforms.

The Ghana Prisons Service, as an essential component of internal security, is tasked with the mandate of ensuring safe custody, welfare, reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners whenever practicable.

Over the years, the Prisons Service has been grappling with several challenges which hamper the operations of the various 43 prison establishments housing a total inmates' population of 14,500 across the country.

Some of the common challenges confronting Ghana's prisons are overcrowding, limited resources for infrastructural expansion, lack of healthcare facilities, shortage of medical drugs, lack of logistics, low feeding rate of GH¢1.80p per inmate and other welfare issues, just to mention a few.

Follow Us



“ THANK YOU DEAR ALMIGHTY GOD

By: akoaso-HH

[More Quotes](#) | [Submit Quote](#)


Recent

Popular

Comments



Diaries Of An Oguua Fisherman: A 12 Year Old Pregnant Girl In Oye Lithur's Arm S



Huawei Refurbishes Children's Library



Kt Hammond: I Have Nothing Against Tsatsu Tsikata



Man Born With Two Extra Legs On His Back Becomes Outcast, Labelled 'devil'



Moscow Authorities To Offer Free Wi-fi At Cemeteries



Mtn Supports Cleft Lip And Palate Patients



Npp And Prudential Bank Affair Reminds Me Of The Npp And The Concordia Ventures



Ndc Usa Congratulates Mr. Amisah Arthur For His Second Nomination As Vice Presi



Have The Assembly Members In Bibiani Lost Focus? A Resident Quizzes

As part of measures aimed at addressing the challenges of the country's prisons, the 6th Prisons Service Council under the Chairmanship of Rev. Dr. Stephen Wengam will launch a long-term fundraiser christened: Project "Efiase".

"Efiase", which is an Akan word for prison, is an initiative of the Prisons Service Council aimed at creating awareness of the deplorable state of Ghana's prisons; as well as soliciting the support of corporate institutions, religious bodies, and well-meaning Ghanaians to improve conditions in the prisons.

The Project will be guided by a 10-year Strategic Development Plan which will be unveiled at the launch. The launch of Project "Efiase" is slated for Tuesday, June 30, 2015, at the College of Physicians and Surgeons Auditorium, Ridge – Accra, at 5:30pm.

To explain this further, the objective of Project "Efiase" is carved in three-fold. Firstly, as an advocacy drive about the inhumane condition of Ghana's prisons; secondly, to engage the Service in private-public partnership; lastly, as a fundraiser for improved conditions in the prisons.

Subsequently, the advocacy for prison reforms will, among others, re-orient the perception of the wider society where prisoners are often labeled as criminals. Undoubtedly, this notion is erroneous because some innocent persons find themselves in prison by accident.

This all-important Project seeks to transform Ghanaian prisons into excellent centres of corrections, so as to meet the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMRs) as a country.

The recent documentary on prisons titled: "Locked and Forgotten" by a senior broadcast journalist, Seth Kwame Boateng from the Multimedia Group (Joy TV), gives a clear picture about the deplorable state of Ghana's prisons.

In the United Kingdom, the wider communities have the passion to donate towards the wellbeing of prison inmates. As a result, there are many charitable organisations in the UK that offer training, employment and financial assistance to ex-convicts.

Even though Government of Ghana deserves commendation for its continued support to the prisons over the years, there is more to be done. This is because government budgetary allocation to the Prisons Service, alone, cannot transform our prisons to attain international standard of corrections.

His Excellency is likely to make history as the first sitting Ghanaian president to visit the prisons. It is welcoming news that President Mahama has accepted an invitation from the Prisons Service Council to grace the launch of Project "Efiase" as Special Guest.

After the President's visit to some selected prisons, it's expected that government will be well informed about the terrible state of the country's prisons in order to commit more resources towards addressing the perennial challenges bedeviling the Ghana Prisons.

In this 21st Century, the internationally acceptable prison system is centred on corrections and rehabilitation, since crime is likened to a disease that needs to be treated.

Currently, the prisons are holding convicts and suspects from all walks of life, and by misfortune anybody at all can find him or herself in jail. Sadly, most prisoners live in inhumane conditions.

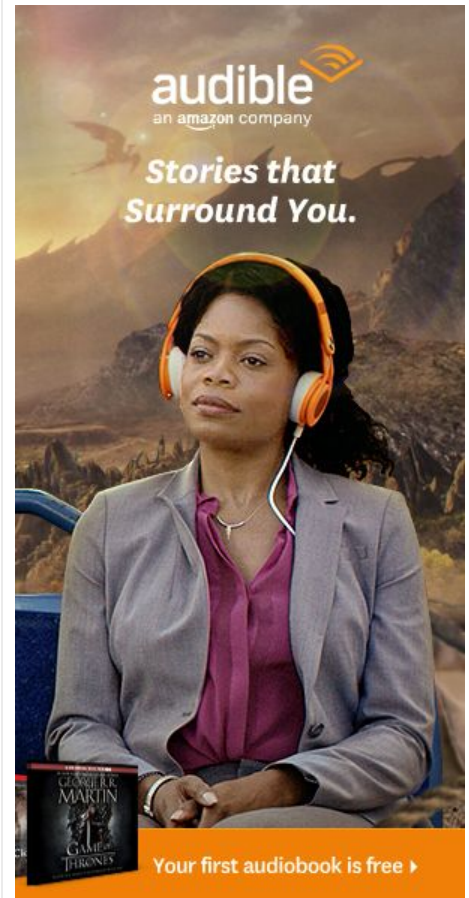
There are many people in prison custody who need help. What is society doing to support the unfortunate ones in jail? The Holy Book admonishes us to visit people in prison, so let's demonstrate the love of God to people in the prisons.

If we show love to prison inmates, this will facilitate their successful integration back into society. The Ghanaian populace can, then, be assured of public safety once prisoners are well reformed. This will also reduce crime rate to the barest minimum.

The stakeholders of the Criminal Justice System should expedite the implementation of non-custodial sentencing policy which will serve as alternative to imprisonment. The passing into law non-custodial sentences such as community service, parole, probation, and fine, will reduce stigmatisation of ex-convicts.

Ideally, this will prevent first and minor offenders from associating with hardened criminals who are likely to influence them negatively.

Admittedly, people are thrown into prison for minor offences simply because there are no alternatives of punishment other than the conventional custodial sentencing. A situation that accounts for excessive

[read more](#)


congestion in Ghana's prisons.

Most of the country's prisons like Nsawam, Kumasi, Sunyani, Navrongo, Sekondi, Tarkwa, and Tamale are heavily overcrowded, since these facilities accommodate more than 150% of the intended capacity.

According to Henry Miller, a 20th Century American writer, *"The prisoner is not the one who has committed a crime, but the one who clings to his crime and lives it over and over"*. In other words, every prisoner most especially first offenders need a second chance.

By way of their corporate social responsibility, the banks, telecoms, oil companies, private institutions, religious organisations, and embassies/consulates should support the Prisons Service Council in rolling prison reforms nationwide.

Security is everyone's business, so let's donate to support Project 'Efiase' for improved conditions in Ghana's prisons. We should not wait until a tragedy hits our prisons before we respond to this call. *"A stitch in time saves nine"*.

ASP James Annan
Head of Publications
Prisons Headquarters, Accra
jamesannan2006@gmail.com



OVERCROWDING IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE IN OUR PRISONS



THE PAIN OF IMPRISONMENT IS DEPRIVATION OF FREEDOM



THE WRITER (ASP JAMES ANNAN)

More Headlines »

Comments:

This article has **6 comments**, [leave your comment](#).

Do you have an article for publication? Please email it to editor@modernghana.com.

◀ 592

◀ 2

◀ 4

| 6 Comments



**20 things every man
wants in bed -- It's more
t...**

**Project Efiase: Funding
Reform and Rehabilitati...**

**Konadu Deny Herbert
Mensah Children..
Despite O...**

**The Solution To
Overcrowding**

NEXT >

Headlines



Angry Ndc Youth On Burning Spree In Tamale

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Tension is heightening in the Northern regional capital of Tamale as supporters of a defeated Nat ...



125 Mps Risk Losing Seats For Absenteeism

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Some 125 Members of Parliament risk losing their seats for repeatedly absenting themselves beyond ...



Tuc Fights Reviewed Utility Tariffs

Thursday, December 10, 2015

The Trades Union Congress, (TUC) has asked the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) to r ...



'ghana Leaders Steal Money'

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Former Rector of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Professor S ...



Tears Flow At Funeral Of Stabbed Upsa Student

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Shock, tears and wailing took the better part of mourners who attended a memorial service held in Ac ...

▼ show more stories ▼

From The World

Sponsored Links by Taboola

Brilliant Mortgage Payoff Method Has Banks On Edge
Comparisons.org

Get Grandfathered In For Extra Social Security By April 30th
Stansberry Research

A Better Way To Find Someone's Info Than Google
BeenVerified Subscription

iPhone 6 Plus's Being Sold for Next to Nothing

QuiBids

Home	NEWS	SPORTS	POLITICS	DIASPORA	REAL ESTATE	ENTERTAINMENT
About us	Ghana Votes 2012	Sports Archive	News Archive	News Archive	Homes For Sale	News
Contact Us	News Archive	Sport News	Elections 2012	USA	Uncompleted Houses	Nollywood
Feedback	Politics	Premier League	Elections 2008	Canada	Bargain Houses	Watch Movies
Ghana	Sport News	CAN 2013	CPP News	Germany	Luxury Houses	Audio Releases
Radio	Entertainment	CAN 2012	NPP News	Switzerland	House For Rent	Music Albums
Mobile		CAN 2010	NDC News	Holland	Unserviced Plots	Video Clips
Advertise		CAN 2008	PNC News	Italy	Serviced Plots	
RSS Feeds		Worldcup 2010	PPP News	France		
Site Map	AFRICA	OPINIONS	BUSINESS	LIFESTYLE	CLASSIFIEDS	MEMBERS
E-mail Alerts	News Archive	News Archive	News Archive	News Archive	Announcements	All Profiles
Widgets	Inside Africa	Columnists	Trading Results	Health	Business	Female Profiles
Partners Links	Togo	Featured Articles	Real Estate	Beauty/Fashion	Services	Male Profiles
Terms of use	Nigeria	Opinions	Classifieds	Family/Parenting	Jobs/Employment	Hot Or Not
Privacy	Kenya	Editorial	Business Directory	Health/Fitness	Computers/Software	
	Ivory Coast	Letters	Website Directory	Home/Food	Car/Trucks	
	South Africa	Critics	Book Directory	Poetry	Friendships/Penpals	
	Nollywood	Commentaries	Currency Converter	Relationships	Datings/Relationship	
		Have Your Say		Social Issues		
		Polls & Surveys		Women Issues		

All trademarks and copyrights on this page are owned by their respective owners. 2005-2015, © Copyright ModernGhana.com

Other sites of MG Media Group [Modern Ghana](#), [The Nigerian Voice](#), [Nigeria Films](#)